(b) For extension of runway at Calicut airport for Airbus A-300 operations, a feasibility study has been carried out by the National Airport Authority. The study has revealed that the extension of the runway is highly cost and time intensive. The National Airports Authority is not in a position to take up the project due to severe financial constraints.

Indian Airlines has no plans at present to connect Calicut with new stations. Air India is examining the feasibility of starting international flights from Calicut to Gulf countries.

Expansion of Cochin Airport

947. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to expand the Cochin Airport; and

(b) if so, by when the expansion will take place?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The feasibility of extenring the secondary runway at Cochin by 5000 feet has been examined. It involves the reclamation of about 35 acres of land from the sea and diversion of a railway line and construction of a bridge, diversion of a national highway and rehabilitation of a village, besides certain other works. The project will take at least seven years to be completed. Because of the cost involved and the constraint of resources with various agencies, it has not been found possible to take up the project so far.

Restaurant at Dabolin Airport, Goa

948. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATON AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress in the construction of the restaurant at Goa Airport (Dabolin); and

(b) what the work is expected to be completed and by when the restaurant will be opened to public?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The civil work for the restaurant has been started. Tenders for award of the rights will be issued by the National Airports Authority shortly. It is expected that the restaurant will be commissioned in about nine months from now.

Transportation of cylinders from LPG Bottling Plants

949. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of LPG bottling plants under Indian Oil Corporation in the country and what are their locations together with the bottling capacity of each plant;

(b) what are the names of the LPG bottling plants from where more than 306 cylinders are loaded in each truck used for transportation of cylinder from bottling plant to the gas agency and what is the number of gas cylinders loaded in each truck;

(c) whether the said practice is valid under the new Motor Vehicle Act, if not, who is responsible for it; and

(d) what are the reasons for not implementing Motor Vehicle Act so far by the said bottling plant?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) A statement is attached. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) According to the Indian Oil Corporation the payloads are set in line with the carrying capacity endorsed by the RTO in the certificate of registration for each truck.